

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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DR. THOMAS E. FRENCH



Courtesy Alumni Monthly

Congenial, unassuming Professor French, known to many as "the daddy of the stadium", is completing his 50th year as a member of The Ohio State University's teaching staff. During his association with the University, he has become an outstanding figure in the field of engineering education, having had over one-half million books printed on engineering

drawing and lettering practice books.

His activities, however, were not limited to the College of Engineering, for he has served the University in a number of ways, notably on the Athletic Board and at present as chairman of the committee on committees, on the Library Council, the committee on diplomas, as faculty representative in the Western Conference, on the National Collegiate Athletic Association and on the Board of Control of the Faculty Club, once having served that group as president. He also instituted the chimes at Orton Hall and was the first chime master.

Dr. French entered Ohio State University in the fall of 1891, after gaining experience in drafting at Dayton, Ohio. The year following his admittance he received an assistantship in what was then known as the department of architecture and drawing. In 1906, this department was resolved into its components, with Professor French as the head of the engineering drawing.

During his first four years here as a student he helped defray school expenses by making patent drawings. He was also a member of the Ohio State marching band and the glee club. He received his degree in mechanical engineering in June of 1895.

One of his numerous hobbies is designing book plates. Sixteen are now being used in the campus libraries. He has designed plates for other colleges and public libraries, such as the New York Library, Franklin College in Indiana and Denison University. The University seal and the recently designed crest can also be listed under the column headed "Achievements."

Monmouth College conferred on him the Doctor of Science degree in 1921. He is one of the few four-key men in the country, having acquired Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi and Tau Sigma Delta insignias. His social fraternity is Phi Gamma Delta.

Almost every freshman entering the College of Engineering knows of Professor French as an outstanding authority on engineering drawing, because of his text (French & Svensen) is used in

high schools throughout the country. His text on engineering drawing has been adopted by more than five hundred colleges and is recognized the world over. This book has just recently been revised and is now in its sixth edition.

Although no longer conducting classes at Brown Hall, which he designed, he will maintain his desk there as the head of the Engineering Drawing Department.